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Community Engagement Models and Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects

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Community Engagement Models and Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects

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IEA Wind Task 28 – Japanese Expert Day
31st May 2013

Outline

- Drivers of Community Acceptance
- Models of Community Benefit:
 - Protocols and corporate models of best practice
 - Regulator driven benefit regimes
 - Community ownership
- Strategies for enhancing community benefits
- Implications

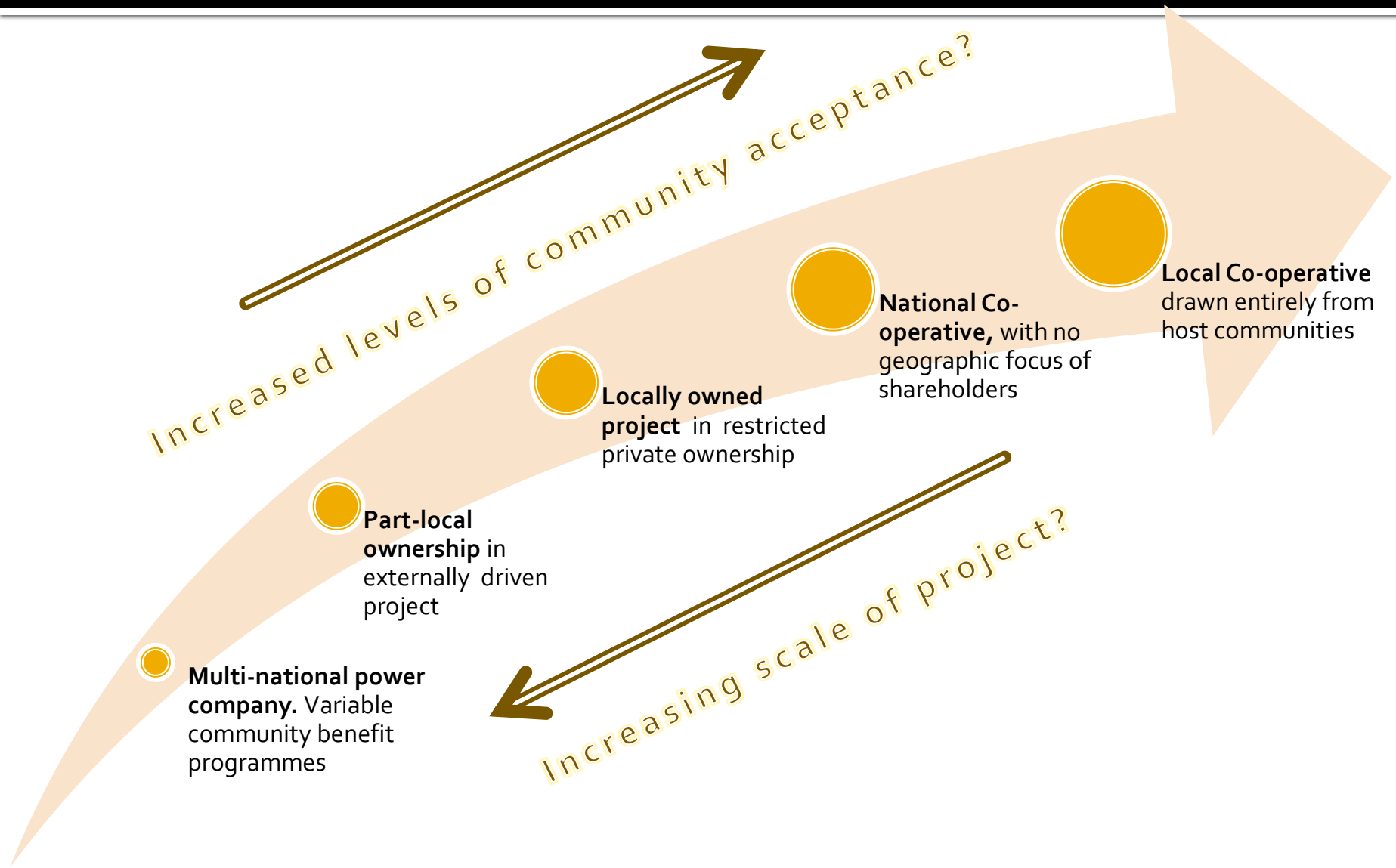


Drivers of Community Acceptance

- Key drivers are:
 - Health and environmental impacts;
 - Concerns over visual, bio-diversity, well-being impacts on local area etc;
 - Responses: improved project design and locational policies and impact assessment.
 - Fairness of decision-making process;
 - Lack of trust in developers, regulators and the transparency of the consenting regime;
 - Responses: increased participation, the role of intermediaries.
 - Perceived distribution of costs and benefits;
 - Fear that external companies accrue key benefits, while local communities bear main costs;
 - Responses: procurement policies, increased community benefits and changes to ownership profile of the wind industry.



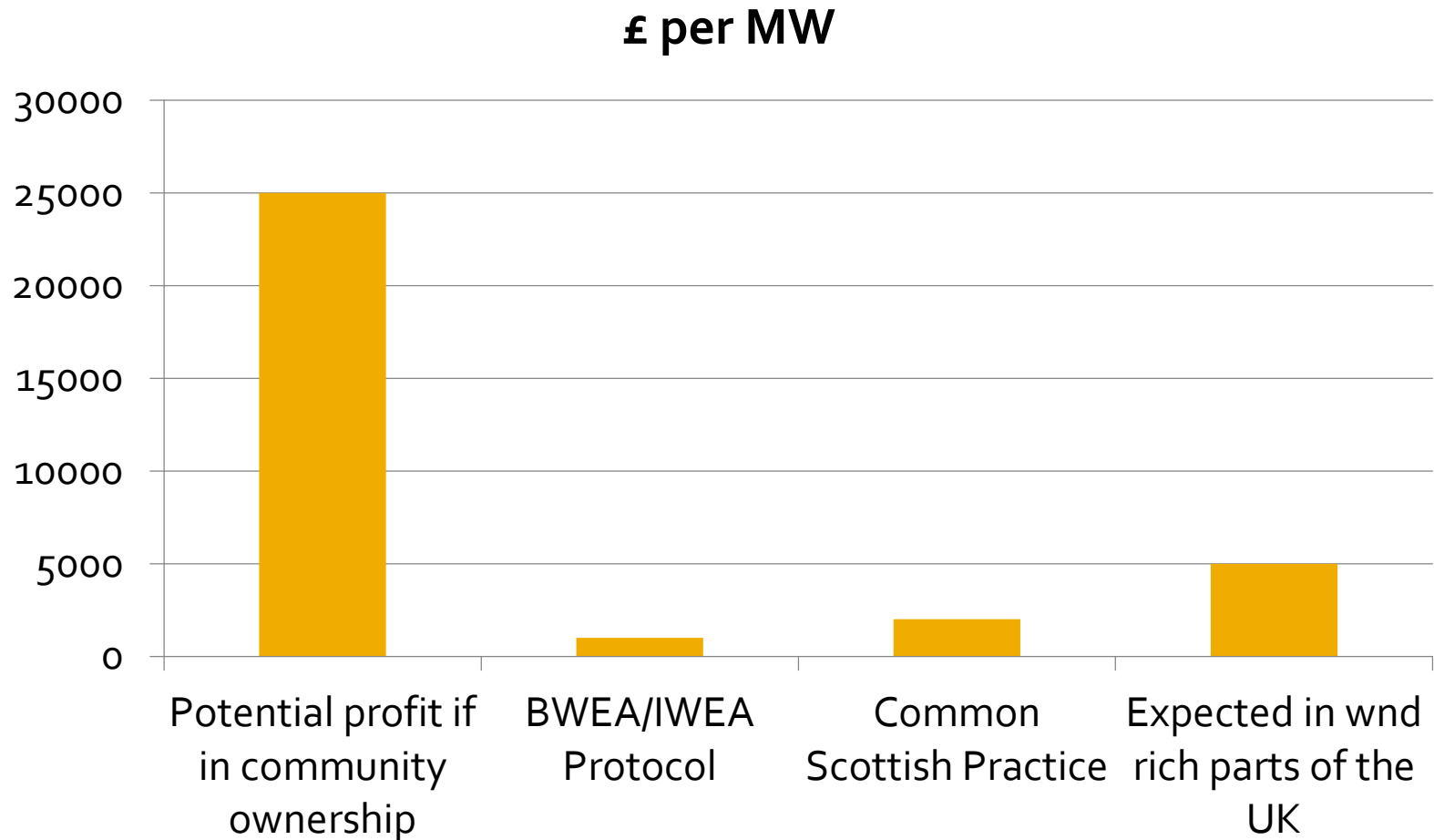
A Continuum of Community Benefits



Models of Enhancing Community Benefits



Scale of Benefits to Host Community



Regulator- driven strategies

- Regulators can also use the consenting process to lever in additional benefits.
Examples include:
 - Developer contribution schemes e.g. Co. Mayo
 - Danish Promotion of Renewable Energy Act 2008
 - Nationalisation of Wind?
 - Community Benefit Registers
 - Community Wind Auctions



Community Benefit Registers

- Community benefit register in Scotland
- Records the different types and levels of benefit allowing openness and 'competition'
- See:
<http://www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/register>

Community organisations controlling assets: a better understanding

Mike Aiken, Ben Cairns,
Marilyn Taylor and
Rebecca Moran

June 2011

This report examines the experience of community organisations controlling assets in the UK.

Over the last ten years there has been an increasing policy interest in the ownership and management of assets – such as land, buildings and plant used to generate electricity – by community-based organisations (CBOs). There has been a much longer history of active work in this field by practitioners. There has, however, been relatively little independent research conducted in this arena. This report contains the findings from research commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which sought to build the evidence base. It argues that there is a diverse range of community organisations engaged in this work and particular kinds of support are needed if the field is to flourish. The report examines:

- the range, nature and scale of different forms of community control of assets across the UK;
- the benefits, costs and critical success factors associated with asset ownership and management by CBOs;
- the key benefits and outcomes; and
- approaches to supporting the different organisations operating in this field.

Community Wind Auctions

- Strategy for using consents process to stimulate new thinking on community benefits
- Potential focus on key undeveloped sites – such as forestry in public ownership or other lands in public ownership, or for guiding repowering strategies.
- Strong land use planning regimes may also induce private sector land into the scheme



Example of Community Wind Auctions on Forestry Land

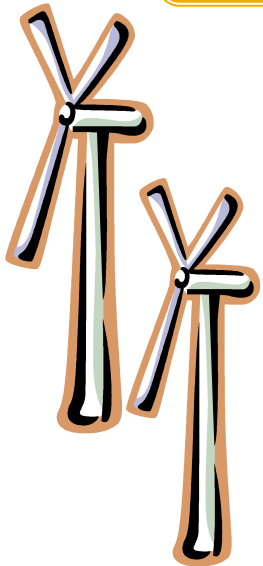
Step 1: Forestry authority identifies sites suitable for wind development and the likely wind resource



Step 2: Planning permission secured on these sites and agreement for grid connection;

Step 3: Annual rental fee set for each potential site;

Step 4: Sites auctioned for 25 year lease on basis of developer that offers most innovative and generous community benefits – if no bidders, site offered to local community .



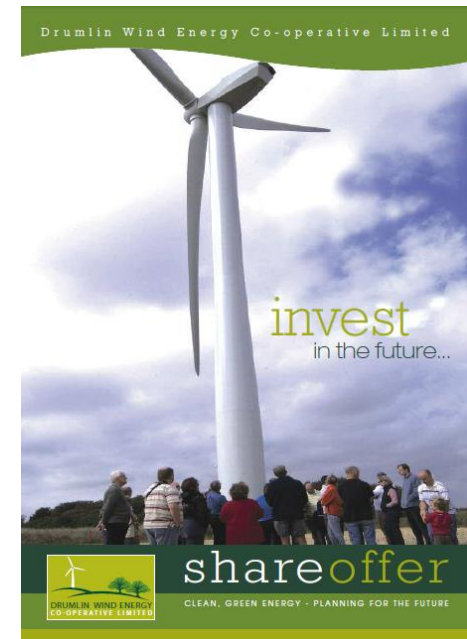
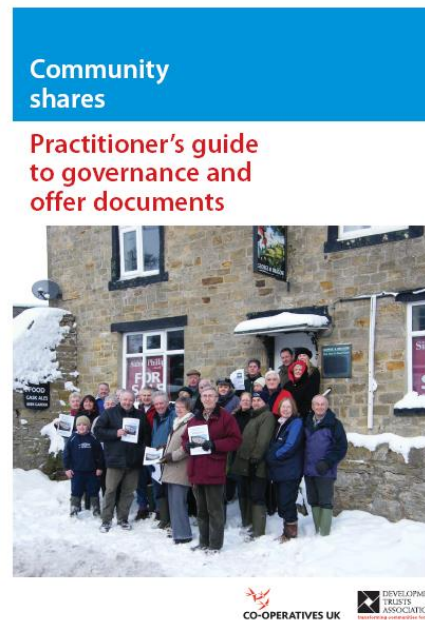
Thinking about wind as a community asset

- Community Asset Transfer as a potential mechanism for ownership.
- The Fintry Model



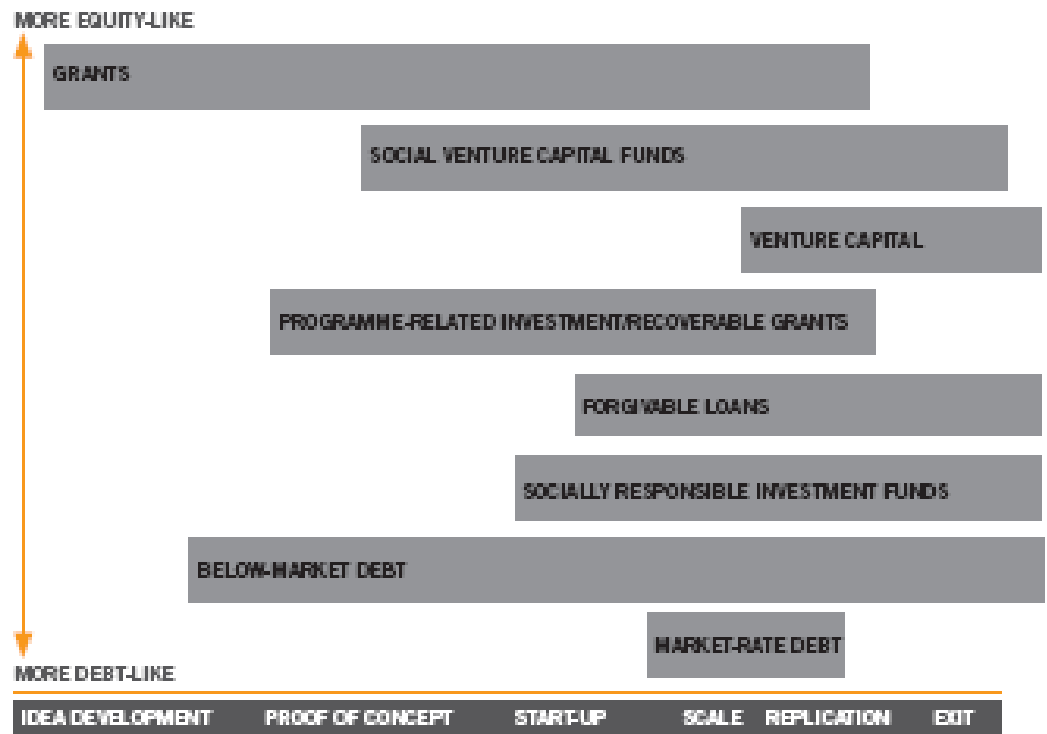
Ownership, equity and community shares

- Full community ownership
- Part ownership
- Community-developer joint venture
- Cooperative model
 - The cooperative model is especially interesting as it offers the potential of community shares
 - The Drumlin scheme is one example of an attempt to open ownership to local people

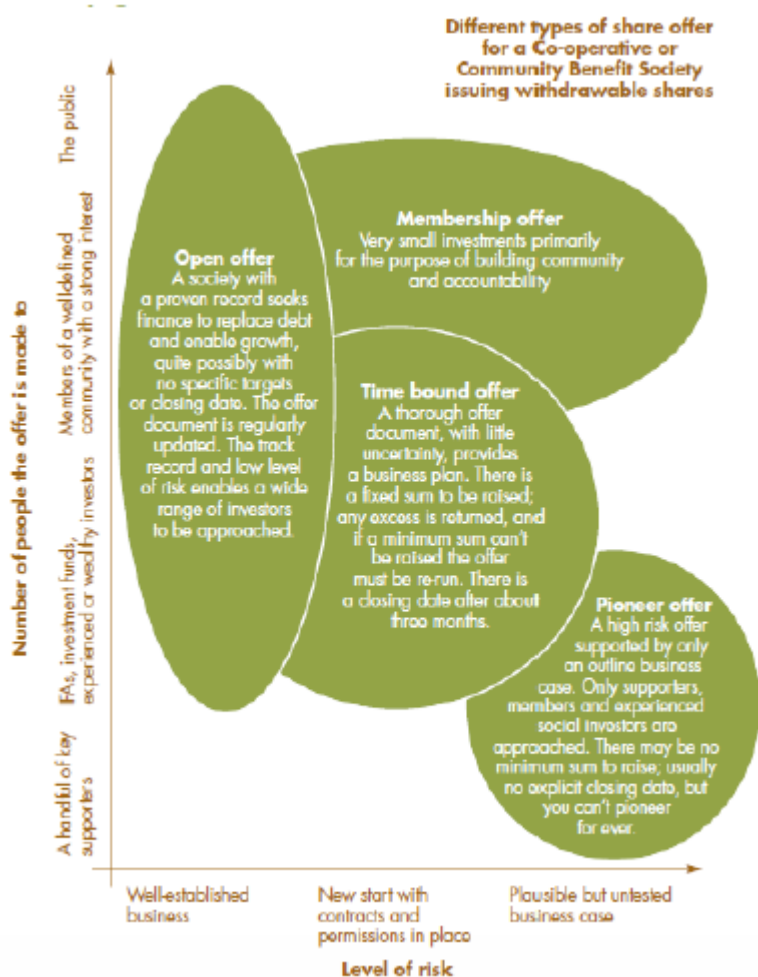


Different levels of community finance for wind farm development

- If community owned wind farms are to be developed the social finance market needs to grow



Types of withdrawable shares used by IPS in the UK



■ In the UK:

- 670 low carbon energy cooperatives
- 40 are renewable energy generating
- Raised £14.5m in capital
- Own £20m of assets
- Increase in green Co-ops of 24% in the last for years

Intermediation in Scotland



Community consultation & capacity building



Our team has a range of skills and experience which it can offer to community groups who want to undertake local community planning. HISEZ is also able to operate flexibly and offer a service tailored to the needs of the community, providing support as and when needed. We can work with the community so that skills and knowledge are gained by the group, or we can carry out the work entirely on your behalf.

Services include:

- Community consultation – from deciding who and what to consult on, through planning and facilitation of consultation, to understanding the results
- Through consultation, identify priorities for the future
- Advise on implementation of plans
- Business planning support for aspiring community enterprises and developments
- Community capacity building
- Support for business start-up, development and sustainability
- An independent critical friend, mentor and mediator
- Evaluation

If you are interested in finding out more about how HISEZ can support your community then please get in touch with us on [01463 715533](tel:01463715533) or email contactus@hisez.co.uk

- Support finance, technical assistance
- Resources
- Networks

Conclusion

- Until now the key emphasis in the UK and Ireland has been on private developers to voluntarily offer community benefits, with limited results.
- There is need to explore alternative forms of innovation and leverage in securing community benefit's through a more overtly redistributive model, using:
 - Regulator strategies
 - Community Ownership strategies



Thank you!

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